

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 AID-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01

IO-10 EUR-12 /081 W

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O P 041255Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9611

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 3941

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: MARCH 4, THE 63RD DAY OF THE OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 3848

1. SUMMARY. THE KC SUNK TWO KHMER NAVY LANDING BOATS AND A PATROL BOAT IN THE NEAK LUONG AREA. FRIENDLY FORCES MADE PROGRESS BY OPENING THE ROAD BETWEEN BANAM AND NEAK LUONG WHILE THE KC STTACKED THE FERRY CROSSING POINT OPPOSITE NEAK LUONG TWICE. THE ISOLATED 3RD DIVISION BATTALION SOUTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH HAS BEEN RELIEVED. A SECOND BRIDGE NORTHEAST OF THE CAPITAL FELL TO THE KC. KC ROCKETS CONTINUED TO FALL INTO DOWNTOWN PHNOM PENH, REPORTEDLY KILLING 6 AND WOUNDING 17. END SUMMARY.

2. FANK FORCES MADE PROGRESS BY REOPENING ROUTE 15 BETWEEN NEAK LUONG AND BANAM (REFTEL). THE KC ATTACKED THE FERRY CROSSING POINT OPPOSITE NEAK LUONG TWICE MARCH 3, KILLING 4 AND WOUNDING 28. TWO KHMER NAVY LANDING VESSELS ATTEMPTING TO RESUPPLY THE FRIENDLY

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POSITION SOUTH OF NEAK LUONG WERE HIT BY ENEMY FIRE

AND SUNK LATE MARCH 3, WITH 30 TONS OF AMMUNITION LOST  
AND TEN MILITARY REPORTED MISSING. A PATROL BOAT WAS  
ALSO SUNK IN THE NEAK LUONG AREA, BUT ALL PERSONNEL  
WERE RECOVERED.

3. IN A WELCOME PIECE OF GOOD NEWS, THE OPERATION SOUTH-WEST OF PHNOM PENH LINKED UP MARCH 4 WITH THE 3RD DIVISION'S REMAINING ISOLATED BATTALION, THUS REDUCING PRESSURE ON THIS FRONT. HOWEVER, NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH ON THE MEKONG'S WEST BANK, A SECOND BRIDGE FELL. THUS FAR ONLY 34 SURVIVORS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM THE BATTALION-SIZED FORCE AT THE POSITION. THERE WERE 97 SURVIVORS FROM THE BRIDGE WHICH FELL THE NIGHT BEFORE.

4. KC 107MM ROCKETS HIT DOWNTOWN PHNOM PENH MARCH 3-4, LANDING NEAR THE CITY'S TWO LARGEST HOTELS, THE AIR FRANCE AND AIR VIETNAM OFFICES AND IN A CITY MARKET. THE TOTALS FOR BOTH THE CITY AND POCHENTONG AIRFIELD DURING THE PERIOD WERE 26 ROCKETS WHICH KILLED SIX AND WOUNDED 17, MOSTLY IN THE CITY. THE ROUNDS AT POCHENTONG, THOUGH NUMEROUS, HIT FOR THE MOST PART OUTSIDE THE AIRFIELD PERIMETER AND FEW CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED. THE KHMER NAVAL BASE OPPOSITE PHNOM PENH WAS HIT MARCH 3 WITH 82MM AND 75MM RECOILLESS RIFLE FIRE, REPORTEDLY KILLING FIVE AND WOUNDING 18.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMBAT OPERATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PHNOM03941  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750075-0343  
**From:** PHNOM PENH  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750384/aaaacxxe.tel  
**Line Count:** 87  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 PHNOM PENH 3848  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <08 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**  

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MARCH 4, THE 63RD DAY OF THE OFFENSIVE  
**TAGS:** MOPS, CB  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006